

HAZEL GREEN HERALD.

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NUMBER 29.

THE TRUE HISTORY

OF CAPTAIN JOHN SWIFT, AS ESPECIALLY CONCERNS

His Mining Operations for Silver in What is Now Known as the Mountainous Part of Eastern Kentucky... Interesting Reading.

WRITTEN BY ONE WHO KNOWS.

[CONCLUDED.]

A Memorandum of Captain John Swift's Travels To and From the Mines.

The following pages are verbatim copies of a journal as given by Capt. John Swift direct from his own hand:

"Left Alexandria, Va., June 25, 1761; came to Leesburgh, from Leesburgh to Winchester, from Winchester to Lytle's, from Lytle's to Tumbalston's, from Tumbalston's to Fort Pitt, (now Pittsburgh), from Fort Pitt to headwaters of Wheeling, from Wheeling to Little Kanawha, from Little Kanawha to Big Kanawha, from Big Kanawha to Guyandotte, from Guyandotte to Sandy, from Sandy to Longridge, from Longridge to a river, name not known, from unknown river to a large rocky creek (supposed to be Licking River), from large rocky creek up a smaller creek, (now Red River), to the place where we staid from the 18th of July until 27th of October. When left took the same road back to the settlement. On the 28th saw six Indians, but concealing ourselves, got clear of them. On the 30th was pursued by the Indians for some distance, but altering our course, got away safe. Nothing happened till 9th of November; on that day the Indians fired upon us. We returned the fire and made them retreat. We traveled hard the remainder of the day and camped on the Kanawha, after which nothing happened until we arrived at the settlement, which was the 2d of December.

"April 15, 1762, started for and arrived at the same place 10th of May without any difficulties except the loss of a gallon of rum, which was a loss to us in our situation. We stayed until 1st of August, at night, camp at Spot Camp, and on the 2nd was alarmed by the Indians but got clear; camped on the creek; came through the gap and left a valuable prize, marking some trees with curious marks, from which place we went to Cassel's woods, and from thence into Virginia, where we stayed until the year 1764.

"May 1st, 1764, started for same and came by New River, from there to Holston River, from there to Cumberland Valley, crossing the mountains we set our course. Arrived at the place 28th of June and stayed until 1st of September, when we started and went through Cassel's woods, and a man living there by the name of Castleman with whom we stayed five days. From there we went to the settlement, arriving home 12th of October.

"Started from home on 1st of October, 1767; arrived at the place the 4th of November, where we stayed until 1st of April, 1768, when we started for home; went by way of Sandy, meeting with nothing material on our way home, where we arrived 7th of May.

"We started back to same place 4th of June same year; arrived safe at the place 5th of July, where we stayed until 25th of October, when we started for home and went by way of Sandy, and at the forks lost two of our ponies, they being stolen by the Indians, which caused us to leave two horse loads, which was a great loss to us, but was thankful we escaped with our lives. We arrived home on 1st December.

"In the year 1769 was at the same place again. I made three other trips which I kept no particular account of. We did no work scarcely on those trips, only remained a short time get our load of metal and start back. In our trip of 1769 we came back by the route where we had left two valuable prizes in '62. We first left about thirty thousand dollars and crowns on a large creek running near a south course. Close by the spot we marked our names, Mundy, Swift, Jefferson, and one other name, on a beach tree, with compass, square and trowel. About twenty or thirty poles from the creek stands a smart rock, and betwixt it and the creek you will find a small rock of a bluish color, with three chops made with griststone by rubbing it on the rock. By the side of this rock you will find the prize we left at three different times. No great distance from same place we left fifteen thousand more, marking three or four trees with curious marks. Not far from these trees, near a forked white oak, we left the prize two feet underground, laying two large stones across it. At the forks of Sandy we left two horse loads. Close by the forks is a small rock house with a spring in one end of it. Betwixt it and a small branch we hid it under the ground. It was in plate. We valued it at six thousand dollars. We likewise left several hundred dollars in the rock house. One of the furnaces we were in we hid money in the cracks of the rocks.

"Description of the country adjacent to the creek the furnaces are on: The

creek's head southwest, runs generally a northeast course. The creek abounds with plenty of laurel; is so very clifty that it is almost impossible to get a horse near the place; so extremely difficult was the way we never took our horses nearer than six or seven miles of the place. There was quite a thicket of holly a quarter of a mile below the furnace; a small lick; a mile above there is a large buffalo lick; five miles from the small lick another water course we called Lick creek. The creek the furnaces are on forks three miles below the furnaces, and the left hand side is Furnace creek. Below the forks the creek is a smart stream of water running generally northeast direction. Between the forks and holly thicket find my name on a beach tree in the year 1767. About a mile below you will find Messrs. Guest, Mundy and Jefferson's names in the years 1767-'68-'62. Near the last important forks of the creek, and between small lick and the furnace, is a remarkable rock. It hangs quite over the creek, and the water runs under it, giving it the appearance of a natural bridge, which in reality it is. Mountains and hills covered with laurel, so much so that a man cannot travel without great difficulty, the water courses being elifted on both sides, with here and there a gap where you might cross, making it difficult to travel through.

"In the year 1769 we made arrangements to abandon or quit the mines, as we had made as much money as we needed and we wanted a rest. We were being watched by parties who were anxious to know where we got our silver from. On our last trip we took especial pains to destroy and erase all signs or vestige of our work. So well did we conceal the signs of recent work of any kind that any one going there in about six months would see nothing to make them believe any work had been done there for a long period. We had considerable buried at different points in coin and plate or metal. We generally brought away from twelve to fifteen thousand dollars every year for four years, the other five years making two trips each year, we brought away over one hundred thousand dollars worth in coin and metal, leaving over fifty thousand dollars buried at different points on the routes."

[Trouble was brewing at that time between Great Britain and the Colonies. Although an Englishman, Capt. Swift's sympathies were with the Colonies. Some time in the latter part of 1770, Capt. Swift set sail for England with the intention of getting a mining company to come over and get legal possession of the mines, but bad luck seemed to overtake him. After sailing for his native land he got pressed on board a man-of-war, and for some misconduct he was cast into a dungeon, and it was while in there that his eyesight became impaired. It was several years after the close of the Revolutionary war before Capt. Swift returned to the United States of America, arriving at Alexandria in the year 1780. —Old manuscript.]

We will now relate a sad incident that happened on their ninth trip. While the four men were returning to the settlement, (as they did always go into Alexandria), when several days out on their journey, Wm. Guest's horse was bitten several times by a rattlesnake. In a short time the horse was unable to travel, and they were in a section of country they wished to get out of as soon as possible, so they had to leave the horse to his fate. He was loaded with Guest's share of the silver, and they had to conceal it for the time being. Guest then demanded of the other men that on arriving at the settlement they divide their load into four equal shares. They were inclined to object to this, especially Mundy. Guest being a Spaniard, with a quick, hasty temper, said he would leave them and join the Indians and go and get all the silver they had hidden or buried. Capt. Swift said he would have been willing to divide his part, while Jefferson said every one ought to abide by their own luck; saying if he were Guest he would not ask them to divide, as he (Guest) was not needy. Mundy was a man of few words, and when Guest threatened to let the Indians on them, before any one could interfere he shot and killed Guest, saying: "I stop you from betraying us into the hands of the Indians." It was a great shock to them. There lay Guest, one of their most efficient hands, dead. They all had to indulge him at times when he would become harsh and impetuous. He and Mundy had had some wrangling at different times, Mundy declaring Guest should not impose on him. After we had buried his package of money we set about burying the remains of our co-laborer in the best manner we could. It was agreed between ourselves, in order to account for his absence, to state that on our return home that Guest and his pony was in advance of us and came upon a den of rattlesnakes; that he and his horse were so badly bitten that they both died. On bended knees they all swore to adhere to that statement.

In 1770 the three parted near Alexandria, Jefferson going to Havana, Capt. Swift to England, Mundy remaining at Alexandria. It was agreed between the three that they would meet again, if living, just before the Christmas of 1772, and stay near Alexandria until the

spring of '73, when they would go to the mines and get their money and plate that was buried at different places. But they never met again. It was something over twelve years before Swift came back to Alexandria with health greatly impaired and eyesight injured. He sought to find Mundy, but no one could tell anything about him. An old man told Swift that he had seen him about six years before, and that he was drinking and reckless, but seemed to have plenty of money.

R. P. TIMMINS.



YOU'LL FIND IT HERE.

Gov. Brown has designated Friday, November 9, as Arbor Day in Kentucky.

A bill will be presented to the next Alabama Legislature for the removal of the capital from Montgomery to Birmingham.

The people of Estill county are searching for an unknown man, who, Saturday afternoon, assaulted Mrs. Wiley White and beat her to death.

Hon. Wm. L. Wilson has returned from abroad much improved in health, and will make an active canvass in his district in West Virginia.

Internal Revenue Commissioner Miller has been instructed to take no further steps for carrying into effect the free alcohol section of the tariff law.

The annual fall meeting of the Kentucky Trotting Horse Breeders' Association was begun under the most favorable circumstances at Lexington Saturday.

Ice to the thickness of a knife blade formed at Lebanon Friday night. The heavy frost also injured vegetation. To bacco in Henry county is reported damaged by frost.

The Marion county grand jury has returned eight indictments against the Louisville & Nashville railroad for alleged discrimination in freight rates against the city of Lebanon.

Judge John R. Grace, of Cadiz, Trigg county, was nominated for the appellate bench by the Democrats of the First District at Princeton Saturday. The opposition fought hard, and 105 ballots were necessary to make the selection.

A crowd of drunken negroes on a Louisville, St. Louis & Texas train became disorderly near Powers Station, and took possession of the train, refusing to ride in the separate negro coach. They began shooting, but left the train when the white passengers prepared to resist.

Germany is displeased with our discriminating sugar duty against countries paying an export bounty, and threatens retaliatory measures against American meats and breadstuffs. It is intimated that the Austrian Minister will also file a protest like that filed by the German Ambassador.

Senator Hill has ended doubt of his intentions by formally accepting the nomination for Governor of New York. The State Committee completed the ticket by nominating Judge C. F. Brown for Judge of the Court of Appeals, in place of Judge Gaynor. In accepting his nomination for Lieut.-Governor, Representative Lockwood intimated that the support of the administration at Washington could be relied upon for the ticket.

The much talked of match race between Henry of Navarre, Clifford and Domino, was run at Morris Park Saturday and was won by the outsider in the betting, Henry of Navarre, owned by Byron McClelland, of Lexington. Clifford was second and Domino a disgraced last. The Messrs. Keene, owners of Domino, however, found a grain of consolation in the fact that while they lost the match race, worth \$5,000, they won the Matron stakes at the same track the same afternoon. It was worth \$35,000.

Some decidedly sensational testimony was introduced in the express robbery trial of Hardin, Elrod, Taylor and Morris at Nashville, Tenn., last Saturday. Dr. D. C. Brenner party identified Taylor as the man who had the seal made. Evidence was introduced to show that Hardin obtained his appointment through Elrod's recommendation, and that after the robbery Elrod established communication with Hardin's mother-in-law. Two witnesses identified Hardin as one C. E. Leslie, who, after the robbery, had plenty of money and purchased a billiard hall at Austin, Ill.

A DEATH CLOUD.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., ALMOST DEVASTATED BY A TERRIFIC TORNADO.

Several Squares in the Business Center of the City in Ruins—A Number Known To Be Killed, and the List May Be Increased.

THE CITY VEILED IN DARKNESS.

A terrible cyclone struck Little Rock, Ark., at 7:30 o'clock on the evening of Oct. 2, and almost devastated the business portion of the city. Several people are known to have been killed and injured, while it is feared scores of others have met the same fate. The main portion of the business center, bounded on the south by Third street, on the north by the river front, on the west by Center street and on the east by Commerce street, is practically in ruins. The total property loss will probably approximate a million dollars. The cyclone was accompanied by a terrific rainfall, and the stocks of goods in those business houses which were unroofed, though not otherwise wrecked, are destroyed by water.

Shortly after dark a heavy storm came from the west accompanied by vivid flashes of lightning and heavy clashes of thunder. The skies suddenly cleared and the storm was thought to be over, when suddenly a heavy gale from the southwest appeared and for three minutes the city was in the throes of death and destruction. The wind was terrific in the extreme. Trees, telegraph, telephone and electric light poles were uprooted and carried a distance of 200 yards.

The roofs of about thirty of the largest buildings in the city were torn from the houses and hurled against buildings on the opposite side of the street, leaving the occupants and the property within the mercy of the drenching rain, which began to fall in torrents shortly afterwards. When the cyclone had ceased it was discovered that the residence portion of the city had entirely escaped, but the wrecked district covers the principal business portion of the town.

The Western Union Telegraph office is located in the center of this district. This building was wrecked beyond recognition, the operators, who were at work at their keys, having narrow escapes. Operator Culbert was at work only twelve feet from the large two-story brick building recently vacated by the T. H. Jones Company. His escape from death was miraculous. When the cyclone struck that building it blew it over on the Western Union building. The bricks and timbers came crashing through the latter building, one of the bats striking Operator Culbert on the hip, inflicting a serious wound. He is at work, however, without a scratch other than the above mentioned. None of the other operators was injured.

Lightning struck the Martin block, corner of Spring and Second streets, totally wrecking the third floor. The Tilles building, on the corner of Center and Markham streets, was unroofed and part of the fourth floor of Gleason's Hotel was blown away. At Main and Second streets, the tops of several adjacent buildings lie piled up in an indescribable heap.

The worst damage, however, was done to property on Markham and Commerce streets. Nearly every building in that district is unroofed, and many are totally wrecked. The large three-story building at Market and Cumberland, occupied by T. B. McCarthy & Co., is a total wreck, as is also the two-story building on the opposite corner, occupied by Max Elkins as a saloon. The third story of the old Denning house was blown off, and the several stories under it were flooded by water and filled with debris.

At 11 o'clock a message was received from the Insane Asylum two miles from the city, and the State penitentiary, just west of the Union depot, calling for a corps of physicians and other assistance. It is reliably stated that a number of the 600 patients at the asylum are fatally injured, and great damage was done to the buildings. Mayor Hall, as soon as possible, called out the entire fire and police departments, and sent ten hack loads of physicians and citizens to the asylum and the penitentiary.

The city is in the densest darkness, and the streets are a veritable stream of mud. Rescuing parties are busy searching for the wounded, but a total list of casualties is utterly unobtainable.

Intense excitement prevails, and it is utterly impossible to learn the names of the killed and injured. All kinds of exaggerating reports are in circulation.

Through the heroic services of Mayor Hall and Chief of Police Frank Mahon the injured and helpless are receiving the best of attention. The loss to property alone will amount to at least one million dollars. Almost every building situated in the district was more or less damaged by the wind and water. The damage to the Insane Asylum will reach \$100,000, that at the penitentiary \$60,000 and the Capital and Richelieu Hotels were badly damaged. Every window in both buildings was either broken to pieces or cracked. The business houses on East Mark-

ham street and Main, from Markham to Third, are damaged to a great extent. The roofs of a majority of these buildings were torn away and stocks of goods entirely ruined.

Capt. Samuel O. Smith, a prominent citizen and resident agent of the firm of E. Allgeyer & Co., cotton factors, was in his office writing a letter, when he heard the noise on the outside. Just as he reached the side walk a portion of a brick wall from a falling building on the opposite side of the street struck him on the head and back. Four fingers on his hand were broken. He will recover, though horribly cut and bruised.

John Edwards with an infant baby in his arms, was found dead on Second street by the police. An aged negro couple were also found dead in a room of a roofless cabin in the same locality.

The relief corps was sent out at 11 o'clock, and up to midnight the above are the only reports received at headquarters. The street are covered with poles, telegraph, telephone and electric light wires and debris from the wrecked buildings. Six electric street car motors are pinioned on the track on Main street with heavy raftings and poles. These motors are a total loss. Gov. Fishback's quarters, in the Martin block, are a mass of ruins.

A reporter visited the penitentiary at midnight. The roofs of the main cell buildings were torn away and lodged on several frame cottages in the neighborhood, which were completely demolished. A stampede took place among the convicts, but Superintendent McConnell and his assistant soon succeeded in quieting them. Fortunately only about 125 convicts are inside the walls. The other 450 were taken to Sunnyside plantation some days ago.

Leaving there the reporter drove out to the Insane Asylum. Here was found the greatest wreck. The roofs of the main buildings were completely demolished, and several wards caved in, completely destroying everything inside. The male ward is a total wreck. Several insane patients made their escape, but were recaptured. Two men violently insane were captured near the Union depot shortly after midnight. It is not known how many inmates were killed or injured, as many are supposed to be buried in the ruins. Confusion is too great to learn anything tonight.

Dr. Jacob T. Ingate, who came here several months ago from Mobile, Ala., to accept a position in the asylum, was killed. He is buried beneath the ruins of the building. The loss to the buildings and contents of the asylum will reach \$125,000. This is considered a conservative estimate.

Telegraph operators are a scarce commodity in Little Rock tonight. Mr. Newton, of the Western Union is at work with a force of men and electricians clearing the debris from the main office, and not a wire is working from that point. The reporter finally ran across Mr. J. M. Gilbert, who had been sent to the Union depot office to find an outlet for the accumulated business, where he was found, and sent this dispatch over the wires of a railroad entering here. He is suffering from his bruises, but sticking heroically to his post.

The Next State Convention.

The indications now are that the Democratic State Convention next year will be quite a tame affair compared with similar quadrennial gatherings. There are but two candidates for Governor—Hardin and Clay—and only one ballot will be necessary to decide the contest, and it is highly probable that after the county primaries Hardin will have such a large instructed vote he will be nominated by acclamation.

Several candidates have been spoken of for Lieutenant Governor, but popular Dick Tyler, of Hickman, is the only one positively announced, and he is certain to be the man.

For Auditor, Maj. L. C. Norman, the present incumbent, has no opposition.

For State Treasurer there are several candidates, but politicians all over the State concede that none of them are in it with our countyman, Judge W. H. Gardner.

Ed Porter Thompson will be indorsed for Superintendent of Public Instruction, as he has made a splendid official, and just can't be beaten.

Swango has no opposition for Register of the Land Office.

Col. Ion B. Nall has nailed down the position of Commissioner of Agriculture. Gen. Jack Hendrick is running for Attorney-General without opposition.

The only real race in prospect is for Secretary of State between Metcalf, Hale and Headley.—Elizabethtown News.

Recovering from the Slough.

The comparative statement of receipts and expenditures of the Treasury, issued the 1st of the month, showed that the finances of the Government are recovering from the slough of despondency into which Harrison's administration had run them. During the first three months of the last fiscal year the expenditures exceeded the receipts eighteen million dollars, while for the first three months of the present fiscal year the excess is not quite one million. The receipts last week were more than the expenditures.